

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4802

January 13, 2010

Mr. Charles P. McCreadie
Western Pennsylvania District Manager
United States Postal Service
1001 California Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15290

Re: Senator John D. Rockefeller IV, Statement for the Record, Area Mail Processing
Feasibility Study, January 13, 2010, 7:00pm, Wheeling Park High School

Dear Mr. McCreadie:

I would like to submit the following statement for the record, to voice my strongest opposition to the United States Postal Service's efforts to consolidate operations at the Wheeling, West Virginia Post Office into the Pittsburgh Processing and Distribution Center.

The Postal Service is a vital resource for West Virginia communities, linking citizens, towns, and businesses across our state and around our nation. Yet, even as the Postal Service looks for ways to meet the challenges of a changing world, it must continue to provide reliable, quality service to all areas of our country. I believe it is unacceptable to cut services and jeopardize jobs here in Wheeling, West Virginia, in favor of Pittsburgh, more than 60 miles away.

The Wheeling Post Office, its employees, and their operations have consistently exceeded the performance of surrounding postal operations, particularly the Pittsburgh facility. In a letter written with Senator Byrd last year, I noted that the Wheeling Post Office cancels a significantly greater proportion of its mail on an AFCS machine than Pittsburgh. And it processes more mail per day on the DBCS and DIOSS machines than any other facility in the Western Pennsylvania District. With such success and efficiency, I simply do not understand why the Postal Service would want to remove operations from this facility.

Local mail dropped off in Wheeling will now be transported to Pittsburgh before being delivered back to Wheeling. This unnecessary step will inevitably delay mail for West Virginians in the Northern Panhandle.

I am also greatly concerned that this partial consolidation might very likely be the first step of what could become a broader consolidation affecting many more employees and their

families in the future. I cannot begin to tell you how important each and every one of these jobs is to this community, which has already been harmed by layoffs from local manufacturers.

I strongly encourage the Postal Service to reevaluate its decision. Retaining all mail processing functions – including those performed with the machines for processing, cancelling, and sorting mail – is vitally important to the Wheeling community. In addition, I believe that the Postal Service should examine the possibility of expanding operations at the Wheeling facility. Its employees have a proven, efficient track record of productivity that should not only be valued by the Postal Service, but would also support the Postal Service's goals of reducing costs and restoring financial viability.

Thank you for this opportunity to discuss such an important issue affecting so many of our friends and neighbors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Rockefeller", with a stylized, flowing script.

John D. Rockefeller IV

cc: The Honorable John E. Potter
Postmaster General
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington, DC 20260